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EXAMINER

QIN, YIXING

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

In response to applicant's amendment received 9/5/07, all requested changes have been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 9/5/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The arguments state that the Bourdeau'Hui reference does not place the various sets of data on opposite sides in the manner where address data are printed on the front and body data are printed on the back.. The Examiner disagrees. Bourdeau'Hui discloses in Figs. 4 and 5 various layouts for printing pages of a book. The front and back surfaces of the sheets have various pages printed on them, and are put together so that appropriate information is reflected on both sides of the sheets – i.e. page 1 opposite page 2, page 3 opposite page 4, and so on. This can be seen in Fig. 5. As seen in Fig. 5, page 1 appears front page and page 8 appears on a back page.

The claimed invention simply calls for correctly putting the various page information on either front or back pages. Figs.4 and 5, again, show various placement of pages which indicates that the example placement scheme as argued is possible with the Bourdeau'Hui invention. Please see the rejection below for more detail. This rejection is made final.

The 112 rejection has been withdrawn because of the deletion of the limitations that has cause the 112 problem in the independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

I. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11-15, 18, 19, 21-25, 28, 29, 31-35, 38, 39, and 41-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Bourdeau'Hui et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,719 – “Bourdeau'Hui”).

Regarding claims 1, 11, 21, 31, Bourdeau'Hui discloses an information processing apparatus segmenting a sheet into a plurality of areas and arranging the print data layout in each of the plurality of areas, comprising:

print setting means for setting print settings; (column 3, lines 6-11 a program for setting up the positioning and information of sheets to be printed input means for inputting a plurality of sets of data from an application, each set of data including print data of front and back surfaces of each area);

input means for inputting a plurality of sets of data arranged on the plurality of areas from an application, each set of data being print data corresponding to front and back surfaces of each area. (Fig. 1, items 40, 42, 43 are various ways for the users to input data.)

determination means for determining whether a surface which undergoes an imposition process is to be at the front or back surface; (in column 6, lines 65-67 and 7, lines 1-13 that there are a “recto” (**i.e. upper**) and “verso” (**i.e. lower**) sides in which to print pages. Also see Figs. 3, 4A, 4B)

page order setting means for setting the page-layout order on the surface of one sheet determined by the determination means such that, in a case where the sheet is cut into the plurality of areas, each set of data is arranged on to the front and back surfaces of each cut area; (Lines 5-8 of column 7 discloses that the reason for placing the pages in a certain order and some to be turned upside down is to have the proper **page order** so that the two sides match each other – Also see Figs. 3-5) and

imposition process means for performing the imposition process, on the basis of the page-layout order set by said page order setting means, by separately collecting page data for the front and back surfaces of the sheet and respectively laying out the print data on the front and back surfaces of the sheet, (column 3, lines 17-35)

Regarding claims 2, 12, 22, 32, 42, Bourdeau'Hui discloses wherein said determination means automatically determines the front or back surface by either a format in which all the data of back surfaces is outputted after all the data of front upper surfaces is outputted, or a format in which data of the front or back surface of a set is alternately outputted, which is designated from the application in 2 sided printing.” (column 3, lines 4-23 and column 6, lines 31-37).

Regarding claims 3, 13, 23, 33, Bourdeau'Hui discloses wherein said print setting means has designation means for allowing a user to designate processing for the front or back surface, and said determination means performs the determination on the basis of the user designation by said designation means." (column 8, lines 1-30 that a processing that an user can designate is the number of pages in a section and/or pages to be printed on a layout.)

Regarding claims 4, 14, 24, 34, Bourdeau'Hui discloses wherein said determination means automatically determines the front or back surface by communicating with the application by using an extension application programming interface (column 4, lines 27-37 – it would be inherent for an automatic duplex proofing machine to know the front and back sides of a page when the data is sent to the proofer).

Regarding claims 5, 15, 25, 35, Bourdeau'Hui discloses wherein when a layout that is always uniquely determined by a specific type of sheet is to be made, and the specific type of sheet is designated, a print setting GUI is controlled so as not to make any setting that influences the layout. (column 7, lines 52-67 that different layouts on a sheet can be made depending on how many pages a user wants on the sheet of printed material -i.e. **the specific type of sheet** has, for example, 1 or 2 pages, which determines the layout of the sheet).

Regarding claims 8, 18, 28, 38, Bourdeau'Hui discloses wherein said print setting means can designate that part of a sheet has already been used, and said page order setting means makes a setting to set only remaining areas as layout targets on the basis of information of the used area designated by said print setting means. (in column 11, lines 3-13 the positioning of the "spine," which is used for folding. This spine area is not to be printed up for the purposes of Bourdeau'Hui's invention, i.e. it is a part of the page that already has a predefined use. Therefore, the layout, as one sees in Figs. 3 and 5, that the setting of the areas of the pages are consistent and does not include the spine area. One could also read the blank space between the pages between the pages as designated parts of the proof sheet that have been used and will not be printed upon)

Regarding claim 9, 19, 29, 39, Bourdeau'Hui discloses wherein said page order setting means sets remaining areas of the first sheet as layout targets by using information of a used area designated by said print setting means, and sets all areas of the second and subsequent sheets as layout targets. (From claim 8 above, one can see in Figs. 3 and 5 that the various sheets are arranged in the same fashion - i.e. a second sheet's layout is set just the same as the layout of the first sheet.)

Regarding claims 41, 44, 45, Bourdeau'Hui discloses an information processing apparatus segmenting a surface of a sheet into a plurality of areas and arranging a print data layout in each of the plurality of areas, comprising:

print setting means for setting a specified sheet, required to segment a surface of the sheet into a plurality of areas and required to assign pages to each of the segmented areas, as an output sheet; (Figs. 4, 5 and column 3, lines 5 - column 4, line 11)

layout order setting means for setting a layout order of pages to be imposition-processed for each of the plurality of areas obtained from segmenting a surface of the sheet; (column 3, line 57 – column 4, line 11)

input means for inputting drawing data of a plurality of pages; (column 3, line 57 – column 4, line 11)

imposition process means for performing imposition processes, based on the layout order of pages set by said layout order setting means, by separately collecting drawing data for front and back surfaces of one sheet and by respectively laying out the drawing data on the front and back surfaces of said one sheet; (column 3, line 57 – column 4, line 11, Figs. 4-5) and

data generation means for generating print data to be printed by a printing device, from the data which is imposition-processed by said imposition process means,

Regarding claim 43, Bourdeau'Hui discloses wherein said print setting means is capable of designating an area of a sheet to be used for printing when a part of the sheet is already occupied, (column 9, lines 46-65 and Figs. 3-5 – the program places pages on the left or right depending on them being odd or even. When, for example, page 1 is designated to be printed on the right side in Fig. 5, page 16 is designated to

be printed on the left side. That means that there is designation of placement of pages on a certain parts of a page because other parts of a page is already designated to other pages) and

said imposition process means collects drawing data for each surface of the sheet and lays out the collected drawing data to the respective surface, having the area for printing arranged symmetrically, according to the set-up of said print setting means. (column 9, lines 46-65 and Figs. 3-5)

II. Claims 10, 20, 30, 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bourdeau'Hui et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,719 – "Bourdeau'Hui") in view of Holt (U.S. Patent No. 5,495,561)

Regarding claims 10, 20, 30, 40, Bourdeau'Hui discloses proof printing documents.

It does not explicitly disclose the spooling of data in his invention.

However, The Holt reference discloses such a conventional technique in column 9, lines 64-67 and column 10, lines 1-15.

Bourdeau'Hui and Holt are combinable because they are both in the art of printing documents.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used spooling because spooling is a conventional technique in the art of printing and the claim describes steps that are known in spooling.

The motivation would have been to process documents in a conventional format provide easy of use and compatibility across different printers and computers.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Bourdeau'Hui and Holt to obtain the invention as specified.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

YQ

/Twyler L. Haskins/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625